

**Uphold Peace, Dialogue and Cooperation for  
Mutual Benefit and Common Development**  
Address by HE Ambassador Zhang Junsai at the  
Australian Institute of International Affairs  
(12: 30pm, 3 September 2009)

President Ian Dudgeon,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Friends,

Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr Dudgeon, for the kind invitation. It is a great pleasure to be here. I know the Australian Institute of International Affairs follows closely China's development and has established sound cooperation with Chinese research institutes. It plays a positive role in facilitating understanding and cooperation between our two countries. I appreciate what you have done.

My topic today will include China's development in the global context, China's foreign policy and its relations with Australia.

We all know the world is in great shift and great adjustment. Deepening globalization brings to mankind both rare development opportunities and wide-ranging challenges. This financial crisis has undercut development efforts of many countries. Frequent local conflicts and regional hotspot issues are changing the global security situation. Major powers are more interdependent and engaged in closer dialogue and cooperation. Emerging countries have become a significant force in shaping the world economic and strategic landscape. Traditional and non-traditional security threats are more pronounced. They include climate change, energy and food security, natural disasters, poverty, communicable diseases, WMD proliferation, transnational crimes and terrorism. They will continue to have far-reaching and lasting impact on international relations.

It tells us one thing. Globalization ties us together. The world is a small village. We are on the same boat. Different countries are interconnected in their interests and destinies and share weal and woe. No one can develop and prosper in isolation. Enduring peace and stability will not be achieved by working alone. The only way to mutual benefit and common development is to follow the trend of the times, help each other and live in harmony.

We live in a different world. With the change of international situation and China's rapid development, China's relations with the rest of the world have seen big changes. More and more people are interested in China, interested in China's road of development, interested in its strategic directions and interested in its role in the global context. But there are also misunderstandings. I recently read an interesting doggerel ragged verse which is widely circulated on the internet. I quote,

When we were called the sick men of Asia,  
We were viewed as the peril;  
When we are billed as the next superpower,  
We are called a threat;  
When we had a billion people,  
We were accused of destroying the planet;  
When we introduced family planning,  
We were accused of violating human rights.

It is interesting, but it points to a lack of mutual understanding. To understand China and find out where it is heading, we need to start from its history.

China is an old country changing fast. It has a brilliant five thousand year civilization. The Chinese nation, with its diligence, intelligence, creativity and resilience, made great contribution to the progress of mankind. China also went through hard times in its course of development. Several generations of Chinese people have made arduous efforts to lift China out of poverty and backwardness and to revitalize the country. In 1978, we started reform and opening up, which unveiled unprecedented social transformation in China.

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. Thanks to over three decades of reform and opening up, China has grown into a dynamic socialist market economy and opened wide to the outside world. The country has taken on a new look and people's life has improved a lot. I can give a few examples. China's annual GDP growth in the past three decades was 9.8%, which is unseen across the world. Rural and urban income increased by more than six times in the same period. Last year, China became the world's third largest economy. Daily production exceeds the annual output in 1952. It has the largest foreign exchange reserve in the world, worth 2 trillion US dollars, or ten thousand times of 1978.

But we are soberly aware that China remains a developing country. It still has a large population, weak economic foundation and low

productivity. Constraints of resources, energy and environment are yet to be addressed. There is a long way to go before China can realize modernization and prosperity for all.

We always look at the question of development of China and the world from both domestic and global perspectives. China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. It will continue to open up to the outside world. Its foreign policy is designed to maintain global peace, promote common development and build a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. To understand China's road of development, the following key words in China's foreign policy deserve attention.

---- **Peaceful development.** The road of peaceful development ultimately leads to a wealthy and decent life for 1.3 billion Chinese people, where they enjoy the right to survival, development and education. We will focus on our own business to achieve self-development. We will not seek external expansion. China's peaceful development is not a threat or harm to the rest of the world, but an opportunity and a positive factor. We respect the rights of people of different countries to choose their own road of development. We are committed to regional and international security cooperation and work for peaceful settlements of international disputes. China's defense policy is defensive in nature. It does not and will never seek hegemony.

---- **Mutual benefit.** China is a developing country and at an early stage of development. There is no other choice but to seek mutual benefit and common prosperity if China wants to develop itself. We will continue to take an active part in international economic cooperation. Foreign companies, as always, are welcome to invest in China. They will have a good investment environment. China's stimulus measures to fight the financial crisis have brought huge business opportunities to foreign investors. We also encourage the international community to increase assistance to developing countries and help them improve people's livelihood and speed up growth. The Chinese Government, on its part, will keep up its South-South cooperation. We will continue to provide economic and technical assistance and humanitarian assistance within our capacity to other countries.

---- **Friendly coexistence.** China has established new types of cooperative relationship or constructive partnership with major countries. For instance, China and the US agreed to build a positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and launched the

bilateral strategic and economic dialogues in July. The partnership of strategic cooperation with Russia, the comprehensive strategic partnership with EU and the strategic relations of mutual benefit with Japan have all maintained a sound momentum of growth. China has strengthened its cooperation with other emerging economies. We are part of the dialogues among BRIC nations and the five major developing countries. China aims to build good-neighborly relations with all its fourteen neighbors. We will constantly strengthen unity and cooperation and deepen traditional friendship with the developing world.

---- **Coordination and cooperation.** China has played an active part in the international fight against the financial crisis. We call for better coordination of macro policies, reform of the international monetary system and greater input in development. China values and has been active in the international response to climate change. We should act on the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* and its *Kyoto Protocol*. The principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities” and sustainable development should be observed. China supports reform of the UN and its Security Council. It supports the international cooperation on food security. China is also working with other countries on energy security, communicable diseases and WMD proliferation. We stand for mutually beneficial cooperation on energy development, support WHO in its global public health programs and endorse international arms control and non-proliferation processes.

---- **Meeting challenges.** International disputes must be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiations. The purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be upheld. That is why China guided and participated in the Six-Party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue to maintain peace and stability in Northeast Asia. China has played a constructive role on the Iranian nuclear issue, Myanmar and Darfur. We look for diplomatic solutions based on equal consultation to realize early and long term stability in these regions. More recently, China joined the international combat against pirates in Somali waters and contributed to safety of international shipping lanes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asia-Pacific region is becoming more dynamic and important. There are comments that the world’s economic and strategic gravity is shifting to the Asia-Pacific. To prepare for an Asia-Pacific century, countries in the region need to enhance mutual understanding and take further their cooperation.

Both China and Australia are important countries in the Asia-Pacific region. We don't have historical disputes or fundamental conflicting interests. In stead, we share expanding common interests. Sound China-Australia relations serve the fundamental interests of the two countries and their peoples. The region and the whole world will also benefit.

Early Chinese migrants arrived in Australia from Guangdong and Fujian in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, we have seen close exchange and integration between the two peoples. Mutual understanding and friendship have grown. The interaction benefited our two countries in their development.

Notable progress was achieved since we established diplomatic ties in 1972. Exchange and cooperation in the political field, trade, culture and science and technology have deepened. We have kept close consultation on international and regional affairs. A long term healthy and steady relationship has brought tangible benefits to China and Australia and their peoples. What we achieved is hard won and must be cherished dearly.

Current difficulties in the bilateral relations are something China does not want to see. We approach this relationship from a strategic and long term perspective. We hope this relationship will, as it did, have stable and healthy growth in the long run. To achieve this, we need to make efforts in the following areas.

**First, strengthen political mutual trust.** Mutual respect and mutual trust are the prerequisite of lasting friendship. Stability of state-state relations is rooted in mutual trust. We should follow the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, seek common ground whiled shelving differences and accommodate each other's concerns. History of China-Australia relations teaches us that this is the only way to deepen political relations and achieve common development. We hope Australia will join China to respect and accommodate each other's interests and concerns, properly handle differences, and strengthen political mutual trust. We need to make sure the relationship stay on the right course. Real efforts should be made to safeguard overall relationship between China and Australia.

**Second, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation.** China is Australia's largest trading partner. We should cherish the achievement in our long standing economic cooperation, which has brought huge benefits

to our peoples. Complementarity and potentials in the economic relations should be given full play. To raise our economic relations to a new level, we can strengthen cooperation in energy and resources, environmental protection, bio-technology and finance.

**Third, expand people-to-people exchange.** Closeness between the people is essential to state-to-state relations. Two-way visits increase our people's mutual understanding and cultural exchanges add to their intimacy. China is ready to work with Australia to continue such people-to-people interactions in the long run and reinforce the popular base for bilateral relations.

**Fourth, meet global challenges.** China-Australia relations are carrying larger regional and international significance. We have common pursuit in fighting the financial crisis, deepening regional cooperation and promoting reform of the international monetary system. There is broad room for cooperation in climate change, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, energy security and control of communicable diseases. We are ready to step up cooperation with Australia on global issues and improve our coordination to meet global challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It takes the efforts from both China and Australia to grow their friendship. As ancient sage in China said, if you can make things better for one day, you should make them better every day and never stop doing this. We anticipate a new prospect of China-Australia relations. I sincerely hope our two countries will work together to create a better future for bilateral relations and contribute to global peace and development.

Thank you.